5: Pollard M-5 (no date) 1921 AE4 Lolo AE4

000 of China, both Sons of Han and aboriginals, to conquer in the fight against the passions which have done so much harm to them all.

• 541 The Nosu men would readily take to sports. With their splendid little ponies, almost human in their intelligence and responding so readily to the wishes of their riders, one can imagine that polo would be very popular, and horse-racing, without its vice of gambling, would stir the hills far more than the biggest of clan fights or the most promising of raids into Chinese territory. Horse-racing is not unknown in West China, and at one of these equestrian trials a Nosu horse owned by my friend Mr Long easily beat all comers. The prize offered by the official in charge of the Republican Commemoration sports was but a small one, and Mr Long refused it. He merely had his horse decorated with a long piece of red cloth and had it led all around for the spectators to look at. There is one tribe that once a year has a bull-fight among all the bulls of the neighbouring villages. The final conqueror is also decorated with red. This debasing custom missionaries are stopping, with the consent of the people.

533 292 One evening while we were at See-tieh there was a break in our yarning by the fire, caused by the arrival of two singers who were anxious to show the visitors what they could do. Standing awhile outside the door, one of the singers sang:

I am a young man and not clever,
The clouds are coming up over the heavens,
The crows are croaking:
Will there be any fruit on the trees?
My wrist is just made for a golden bracelet.

Being assured that there might be some fruit on the trees—

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231 thrush. Some of these thrushes which one sees hung up outside a house sing as if they would burst their throats. 231 Soldiers are very fond of rearing these thrushes, and at first 541 one was pleased to see these men enjoying the song of these magnificent songsters. It was, however, a shock, later on, to find out that the birds were not kept for their song but for their fighting powers. Matches are arranged between different thrushes, and sometimes large sums of money are laid on the result. If you see a thrush in a cage and ask if it is a fine bird, meaning, of course, can it sing well, the answer will be given, not at all in reference to its powers of song, but solely to its record in beating other thrushes in fierce fight. There is another little bird, about the size of a large tit, which is the most renowned of the bird fighters. These birds are really vicious fighters, and will frequently kill one another in their arranged combats. Large prices are paid for one of these little birds that has been the victor in many combats. The district of the famous salt wells in the province of Szechuan is noted for its number of fighting birds. The birds are taken there from other parts of West China, as around the wells there is not a great deal of trees to attract feathered life.

276 The friendly widow got up late. I have a suspicion that 249 she smoked opium, and in consequence was not ready to rise 648 at the same time as normal folk. Years ago opium was 439 practically unknown in Nosuland, and the hillmen despised the Chinese for being such slaves to the drug. But since the anti-opium campaign has been so vigorously pushed in West China, many Chinese have gone across to Nosuland and, by large money payments to the chiefs, have received permission to cultivate the poppy. When the poppy-juice